### Case 2:16-cv-0297 [CTV\$] [CTOVITER! SHF [ET 06/14/16] Page 1 of 15

"The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS  MARCHE FOWLKES			DEFENDANTS  AKER PHILADELPHIA SHIPYARD, INC.							
MARCUS FOWLKES					F	AKER	PHILADELPH	HIA SHIPY	ARD, II	NÇ,
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Res		(IN U.S	isted Defendant S. PLAINTIFF CASES CONDEMNATION O CT OF LAND INVOL	CASES. USE THE		ON OF
SIDNEY L. GOLD, E. 1835 MARKET ST., S	Address, and Telephone Numbe. SQUIRE/ SIDNEY L. GOL STE 515, PHILA., PA 1910 69-1999 sgold@discrimle	D & ASSOC, P.C.		Attorneys (If I	Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)	п. сп	TZENSHIP	OF PI	RINCII	PAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in	One Box fo	or Plaintiff
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	ntute under which you ar ies Act iuse:								
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	The state of the s	IS A CLASS ACTION	DE	MAND \$ 150,0	000 in e	xcess	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND		ı complai	int:
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions)	JUDGE			193	DOCE	KÉT NUMBER			
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June 14, 2016		/s/Sidney L. Gold	d, Esquir	e X	/					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY					/					
RECEIPT # AM	10UNT	APPLYING IFP		JUC	OGE		MAG. JU	JDGE		

### Case 2:16-cv-029 5-1159 STATES DISTRICT COURT 16 Page 2 of 15

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

assignment to appropriate calcidar.			
Address of Plaintiff: 5139 Charles Street, Philadelphia	, PA 19124		
Address of Defendant: 2100 Kitty Hawk Ave., Philade	elphia, PA 19112		
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction 2100 Kit			_
	(Use Reverse Side For Add	ditional Space)	
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corpo	rate party with any parent corporation an		
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form	in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	Yes□	No X
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibiliti	es?	Yes□	No X
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:			
Case Number: Judge		_ Date Terminated:	
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to	any of the following questions:		
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier	numbered suit pending or within one yea	ar previously terminated action in thi	s court?
		Yes□	
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action in this court:		Yes□	NoX
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement o	f a patent already in suit or any earlier nu		
terminated action in this court?		Yes□	NoX
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, so	cial security appeal, or pro se civil rights	case filed by the same individual?	
		Yes□	No X
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)			
A. Federal Question Cases:		B. Diversity Jurisdiction Case	
1. □ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract,	and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract	
2. □ FELA		2. □ Airplane Personal l	
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury		3. □ Assault, Defamatio	
4. □ Antitrust		4. □ Marine Personal In	jury
5. □ Patent		5.   Motor Vehicle Pers	sonal Injury
6. □ Labor-Management Relations		6. □ Other Personal Inju	ry (Please specify)
7. X Civil Rights		7. □ Products Liability	
8. □ Habeas Corpus		8.   Products Liability -	— Asbestos
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases		9. □ All other Diversity	Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases		(Please specify)	
11. □ All other Federal Question Cases			
(Please specify)	-		
	ARBITRATION CERTII	FICATION	
Sidney L. Gold, Esquire		(Check Appropriate Category)	
X Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2)	, counsel of record do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and be		s civil action case exceed the sum of
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	,	0	
X Relief other than monetary damages is sought.		/ / / 01084	
DATE: _ June 14, 2016	/s/Sidney L. Gold, Esquire	21374	
	Attorney-at-Law	₹.	torney I.D.#
NOTE: A trial d	e novo will be a trial by jury only if there	e has been compliance with F.R.C.P	. 38
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is no	t related to any case now pending or w	ithin one year previously terminat	ed action in this court
except as noted above.	In Cidmon I Cald Day 1	01081	
DATE:June 14, 2016	/s/ Sidney L. Gold, Esquire	21374	
-	Attorney-at-Law	Atte	orney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

### Case 2:16-cv-02975-TJS Document 1 Filed 06/14/16 Page 3 of 15

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

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Address of Plaintiff: 5139 Charles Street, Philadelphia, P	A 19124		
Address of Defendant: 2100 Kitty Hawk Ave., Philadelp	hia, PA 19112		
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 2100 Kitty	Hawk Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19112 (Use Reverse Side For Add	itional Space)	=
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporat	e party with any parent corporation and	l any publicly held corporation own	ing 10% or more of its stock?
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in	accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	Yes□	No X
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	?	Yes□	No X
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:			
Case Number: Judge		Date Terminated:	
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to an	y of the following questions:		
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier nu	mbered suit pending or within one year	previously terminated action in thi	s court?
		Yes□	
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow o action in this court?	ut of the same transaction as a prior sui		usly terminated
		Yes□	NoX
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a	patent already in suit or any earlier nu	mbered case pending or within one	
terminated action in this court?		Yes□	NoX
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social	l security appeal, or pro se civil rights		
		Yes□	No X
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)			
<ul><li>A. Federal Question Cases:</li><li>1. □ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, an</li></ul>	d All Other Contracts	B <sub>∗</sub> Diversity Jurisdiction Case 1. □ Insurance Contract	
2. □ FELA	id All Other Contracts	<ol> <li>Insurance Contract</li> <li>Airplane Personal I</li> </ol>	
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury		3. □ Assault, Defamatio	•
4. □ Antitrust		4. □ Marine Personal In	
5. □ Patent		5. □ Motor Vehicle Pers	•
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7. X Civil Rights		7. □ Products Liability	ify (1 lease specify)
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9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases		9. □ All other Diversity	
10. □ Social Security Review Cases		•	
11. □ All other Federal Question Cases		(Please specify)	
(Please specify)			
Sidney L. Gold, Esquire	ARBITRATION CERTIF		
J. Gold, Esquire	counsel of record do hereby certify:	(Check Appropriate Category)	
X Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), the	nat to the best of my knowledge and be	lief, the damages recoverable in this	s civil action case exceed the sum of
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  X Relief other than monetary damages is sought.		n /	
, ,	s/Sidney L. Gold, Esquire	21374	
DATE:June 14, 2016		/	
	Attorney-at-L∕aw novo will be a trial by jury only if there		torney I.D.#
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not re	elated to any case now pending or wit	thin one year previously terminat	ed action in this court
except as noted above.	The state of the state of the state of the	A / minat	
	s/ Sidney L. Gold, Esquire	21374	
DATE:	attorney-at-Law	Atto	orney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

#### Case 2:16-cv-02975-TJS Document 1 Filed 06/14/16 Page 4 of 15

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

MARCUS FOWLKES	:	CIVIL ACTION NO.:
V.	;	
	1	
AKER PHILADELPHIA SHIPYARD, INC.	1	

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

#### SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

<b>Telephone</b>	FAX Number	E-Mail Address		
215.569.1999	215.569.3870	sgold@discrimlaw.r	net	
Date	/ Attorney-at-law	Attorney for Plaintiff		
June 14, 2016		/s/Sidney L. Gold, Esquire		
(f) Standard Management -	- Cases that do not fall into any	one of the other tracks.	(X)	
commonly referred to as	Cases that do not fall into track s complex and that need special side of this form for a detailed of	or intense management by	( )	
(d) Asbestos – Cases involve exposure to asbestos.	ring claims for personal injury	or property damage from	( )	
(c) Arbitration – Cases requ	ired to be designated for arbitr	ation under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	( )	
	requesting review of a decision by ing plaintiff Social Security l		( )	
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases	brought under 28 U.S.C. § 224	241 through § 2255.		

(Civ. 660) 10/02

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MARCUS FOWLKES, : CIVIL ACTION NO.:

Plaintiff,

•

AKER PHILADELPHIA

v.

SHIPYARD, INC.,

: JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendant. :

#### **COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

#### I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 1. This is an action for an award of damages, attorneys' fees and other relief on behalf of Plaintiff, Marcus Fowlkes ("Plaintiff Fowlkes"), a former employee of Defendant, Aker Philadelphia Shipyard, Inc. ("Defendant"), who has been harmed by the Defendant's discriminatory and retaliatory actions, ultimately resulting in the termination of his employment.
- 2. This action is brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq. ("ADA"), the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S. §951 et seq. ("PHRA"), and the Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. §2601, et seq. ("FMLA").

#### II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The original jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and the claims are substantively based on the ADA and FMLA. The supplemental jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367, to consider Plaintiff Fowlkes' claim arising under the PHRA.
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 as a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff Fowlkes' claims occurred in this judicial district.
- 5. All conditions precedent to the institution of this suit have been fulfilled.

  On March 18, 2016, a Notice of Right to Sue was issued by the United States Equal

  Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), and this action has been filed within ninety (90) days of receipt of said notices.
- 6. Plaintiff Fowlkes has satisfied all other jurisdictional prerequisites to the maintenance of this action.

#### III. PARTIES

- 7. Plaintiff, Marcus Fowlkes ("Plaintiff Fowlkes"), is a forty-five (45) year old citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing therein at 5139 Charles Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19124.
- 8. Defendant, Aker Philadelphia Shipyard, Inc. ("Defendant"), is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

maintaining a place of business located at 2100 Kitty Hawk Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19112.

- 9. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant was acting through its agents, servants, and employees, who were acting within the scope of their authority, course of employment, and under the direct control of the Defendant.
- 10. At all times material herein, the Defendant has been a "person" and "employer" as defined under the ADA, PHRA, and FMLA and has been, and is, subject to the provisions of each said Act.

#### III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 11. Plaintiff Fowlkes was employed by the Defendant from on or about February 4, 2013 until on or about October 17, 2014, the date of his unlawful termination.
- 12. During the course of his employment with the Defendant, Plaintiff Fowlkes held the position of Laborer and Apprentice and at all times maintained an exemplary job performance rating in said capacities.
- 13. In or about May of 2014, as a result of his excellent job performance, the Defendant accepted Plaintiff Fowlkes into its welding apprenticeship program.
- 14. By way of background, in or about the Summer of 2002, Plaintiff Fowlkes was diagnosed with Diabetes. Said medical condition is a disability within the meanings of the ADA and PHRA in that it substantially impairs one or more of his major life activities, including, but not limited to, normal endocrine function. At all times relevant

hereto, the Defendant was aware of Plaintiff Fowlkes' disability.

- 15. On or about June 13, 2014, Plaintiff Fowlkes visited his physician in response to severe knee pain. Thereafter, Plaintiff Fowlkes was diagnosed with a Torn Meniscus. Said medical condition is a disability within the meanings of the ADA and PHRA in that it substantially impairs one or more of his major life activities including, but not limited to, bending and walking. Plaintiff Fowlkes promptly advised Defendant of said diagnosis.
- 16. On or about June 26, 2014, Plaintiff Fowlkes met with Marion Meixsell ("Meixsell"), Human Resources Generalist, and requested a brief medical leave of absence pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") as a reasonable accommodation for his disability in order to undergo surgery. Specifically, Plaintiff Fowlkes requested a brief medical leave of absence from work from July 17, 2014 through September 17, 2014.
- 17. On or about July 17, 2014, Plaintiff Fowlkes commenced medical leave pursuant to the FMLA and underwent surgery to treat his disability (Torn Meniscus).
- 18. On or about September 12, 2014, during a post-operative appointment with his physician, Plaintiff Fowlkes complained of continuing severe knee pain. Plaintiff Fowlkes' physician advised him to extend his medical leave of absence until on or about October 17, 2014 to ensure full healing before returning to work.

- 19. On the same day, Plaintiff Fowlkes advised Meixsell that his disability required that he extend his medical leave of absence until on or about October 17, 2014 and requested same as a reasonable accommodation.
- 20. Additionally, Plaintiff Fowlkes met with Sandy Gallasso ("Gallasso"),
  Human Resources Representative, who approved Plaintiff Fowlkes' request for extended
  leave, as he had not yet exhausted his available FMLA leave.
- 21. On or about October 8, 2014, Plaintiff Fowlkes visited his physician who cleared him to return to work on the same day. Plaintiff Fowlkes immediately telephoned Meixsell and informed her of the same. Meixsell apprised Plaintiff Fowlkes that the Defendant required that he undergo a physical with Defendant's WorkNet physician prior to his return to work.
- 22. On or about October 16, 2016, Plaintiff Fowlkes visited Defendant's WorkNet physician for the required examination. During said examination, Defendant's WorkNet physician determined that Plaintiff Fowlkes' blood sugar level was elevated as a result of his Diabetes, and that he had a limited range of motion and remaining pain in his knee resulting from his Torn Meniscus. Defendant's WorkNet physician provided Plaintiff Fowlkes with additional paperwork to be completed by his treating physicians and informed him that he could not return to work until his physicians completed said paperwork.

- 23. On the same day, Plaintiff Fowlkes advised Meixsell that Defendant's WorkNet physician would not clear him to return to work until his physicians completed the aforesaid paperwork. Meixsell instructed Plaintiff Fowlkes to have his physician complete the paperwork as quickly as possible so that he could return to work on or about October 20, 2014.
- 24. On or about October 17, 2014, without affording Plaintiff Fowlkes an opportunity to have his physician complete the necessary paperwork, the Defendant abruptly terminated his employment, allegedly for exhausting his FMLA leave.
- 25. Plaintiff Fowlkes believes and therefore avers that no legitimate business reason existed for the termination of his employment and that it was actually a result of his disabilities (Torn Meniscus and Diabetes) and/or in retaliation for requesting a reasonable accommodation for his disabilities and/or in retaliation for exercising his rights under the FMLA.

#### **COUNT I**

# (ADA - Actual and/or Perceived Disability and/or Record of Impairment Discrimination, Retaliation) Plaintiff Fowlkes v. the Defendant

- 26. Plaintiff Fowlkes incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 25 of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 27. The actions of the Defendant, through its agents, servants and employees, in subjecting Plaintiff Fowlkes to discrimination based on his disabilities (Torn Meniscus and Diabetes) and to retaliation for requesting a reasonable accommodation for his

disabilities, constituted a violation of the ADA.

- 28. As a direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory and retaliatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendant in violation of the ADA, Plaintiff Fowlkes sustained permanent and irreparable harm, resulting in the loss of his employment, which caused him to sustain a loss of earnings, plus the value of certain benefits, plus loss of future earning power, plus back pay, and front pay and interest due thereon.
- 29. As a further direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory and retaliatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendant in violation of the ADA, Plaintiff Fowlkes suffered severe emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and loss of self-esteem.

#### **COUNT II**

# (PHRA - Actual and/or Perceived Disability and/or Record of Impairment Discrimination, Retaliation) Plaintiff Fowlkes v. the Defendant

- 30. Plaintiff Fowlkes incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 29 of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.
- 31. The actions of the Defendant, through its agents, servants and employees, in subjecting Plaintiff Fowlkes to discrimination based on his disabilities (Torn Meniscus and Diabetes) and to retaliation for requesting a reasonable accommodation for his disabilities, constituted a violation of the PHRA.

- 32. As a direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory and retaliatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendant in violation of the PHRA, Plaintiff Fowlkes sustained permanent and irreparable harm, resulting in the loss of his employment, which caused him to sustain a loss of earnings, plus the value of certain benefits, plus loss of future earning power, plus back pay, and front pay and interest due thereon.
- 33. As a further direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory and retaliatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendant in violation of the PHRA, Plaintiff Fowlkes suffered severe emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and loss of self-esteem.

# COUNT III (FMLA Retaliation) Plaintiff Fowlkes v. the Defendant

- 34. Plaintiff Fowlkes incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 33 of his Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 35. The actions of the Defendant, through its agents, servants and employees, in terminating Plaintiff Fowlkes' employment in retribution for his legitimate exercise of his rights under the FMLA, constituted a violation of the FMLA.
- 36. The aforesaid actions of the Defendant were willful, malicious, wanton, in bad faith and in reckless disregard of Plaintiff Fowlkes' rights.

37. As a direct result of the willful, wanton, reckless, careless and negligent acts of the Defendant, as aforesaid, Plaintiff Fowlkes has suffered a loss of earnings, plus the value of certain benefits, plus loss of future earning power, plus back pay, front pay and interest due thereon.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

38. Plaintiff Fowlkes incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 37 of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Fowlkes requests that this Court enter judgment in his favor and against the Defendant, and Order that:

- a. Defendant compensate Plaintiff Fowlkes for the wages and other benefits and emoluments of employment lost, because of its unlawful conduct;
- b. Defendant compensate Plaintiff Fowlkes with an award of front pay, if appropriate;
- c. Defendant pay to Plaintiff Fowlkes punitive damages, liquidated damages, compensatory damages for future pecuniary losses, pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life and other nonpecuniary losses as allowable;
- d. Defendant pay to Plaintiff Fowlkes pre and post judgment interest, costs of suit and attorney and expert witness fees as allowed by law;
  - e. The Court award such other relief as is deemed just and proper.

#### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff Fowlkes demands a trial by jury.

SIDNEY L. GOLD & ASSOC., P.C.

/s/Sidney L. Gold, Esquire

SIDNEY L. GOLD, ESQUIRE
I.D. NO.: 21374
TRACI M. GREENBERG, ESQUIRE
I.D. NO: 86396
1835 Market Street, Ste. 515
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.569.1999
sgold@discrimlaw.net
tgreenberg@discrimlaw.net
Attorney for Plaintiff

DATED: June 14, 2016

#### **VERIFICATION**

I hereby verify that the statements contained in the attached Complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of Title 18 Pa. C.S.A. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

DATED: Gune 14, 2016

MARCUS FOWLKES, PLAINTIFF